MARINE CORPS
WARFIGHTING LABORATORY

The **Dragon Fire** project will provide an advanced technology concept demonstrator to support the development of the Expeditionary Fire Support System Program.

DRAGON FIRE
fact sheet

Background: In 1996 the Marine Corps Combat Development Command identified the need for a lighter, indirect fires capability with increased agility and lethality. In 1997 the Lab developed, and experimented with, an indirect fire concept demonstrator called "Dragon Fire."

Since then, the Marine Corps' Quad Division Fire Support Conference submitted a proposal recommending a triad of indirect fires systems comprised of the M777 lightweight 155mm howitzer, High Mobility Artillery Rocket System and EFSS. This proposal resulted in the EFSS Mission Need Statement.

Description: The Dragon Fire is an automated 120mm rifled mortar, also capable of firing 120mm smoothbore ammunition. It is modular, meaning it can be employed both as a towed, helicopter-mobile system and as a Light Armored Vehicle-mobile, self-propelled system. Dragon Fire II is the next generation development of the Dragon Fire, which will weigh far less than the first version and will apply all the lessons learned from Lab experimentation.

-- Weight: 7,000 pounds (Dragon Fire); 3,200 pounds (Dragon Fire II).
-- Designed for internal stowage in the MV-22 Osprey.
-- Automated loading, aiming and pointing systems.
-- Onboard fire control computer, self-location and communication.
-- Rate of Fire: 10 rounds/minute for two minutes, four rounds/minute sustained.
-- Range: 8,200 meters; 13,000 meters with Rocket Assisted Projectile.

The Dragon Fire is designed to contain all the elements required to conduct accurate, responsive fire missions, including the ability to be connected to the Field Artillery Tactical Data System to receive and process fire missions. Dragon Fire II will employ further advanced fire control and stabilization systems that would permit fire-on-the-move capability from within the LAV in a fully-functional concept demonstrator.

Deliverable Product: An assessment and recommendations for EFSS materiel solution. This includes being a candidate system for eventual transition within the spiral acquisition process.

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